CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1312
11 April 1995

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MYANMAR ADDRESSED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 21 ON SECURITY ASSURANCES

I have the honour to transmit herewith a Statement of the Group of 21 on Security Assurances.

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for the distribution of this publication, under a CD number, to all member and participating non-member State delegations.

(Signed): U Aye
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.95-61167 (E)

STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 21 ON SECURITY ASSURANCES

"It has come to the G 21 knowledge that a draft United Nations Security Council resolution on security assurances has been recently circulated in New York. The G 21 has carefully examined the proposals contained in that draft and would like to make the following preliminary observations.

1. Neither the Conference on Disarmament, nor any country belonging to G 21, has been associated with the drafting of the proposal, notwithstanding the fact that the CD is universally recognized as the sole multilateral negotiating disarmament body.

2. While taking into consideration the positive aspects of the proposal, the G 21 observes that this resolution does not take into account any of the formal objections made in the past by Non-nuclear Weapon States on the restrictive, restrained, uncertain, conditional and discriminatory character of the guarantees already provided.

3. The G 21 reiterates its conviction that duly negotiated security assurances are a legitimate right of Non-nuclear Weapon States. In this context, it notes with disappointment that the Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear Weapon States Against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons has not even been re-established during the present session.

4. The Group considers that the terms of its Declaration of 31 March 1994, as reported in document CD/1256, remain valid and merit serious consideration. It is imperative that an unconditional multilaterally-negotiated and legally-binding convention on negative security assurances should be drafted and, to this end, all Members of the CD should display their political will.

5. In this regard, it is worth recalling the great importance that the Heads of State and Government of the non-aligned countries attach to a multilateral and legally-binding convention governing this issue as expressed during their tenth summit in Jakarta, in 1992, and reiterated by the non-aligned Foreign Ministers in Cairo, in May 1994, when they stated that 'security assurances to Non-nuclear Weapon States against the use of threat of use of nuclear weapons could contribute positively to addressing some of the dangers inherent in the presence of nuclear weapons' and 'called upon the Conference on Disarmament to reach an urgent agreement on an internationally binding convention'.

6. At the same time, the G 21 considers it necessary that the Security Council gives positive assurances to Non-nuclear Weapon States that should go beyond a mere reiteration of the principles of the United Nations Charter.

7. Furthermore, the G 21 reiterates its conviction that Article 51 of the United Nations Charter should not be interpreted as legitimizing the use of nuclear weapons.

8. The G 21 is deeply convinced that all aspects relating to nuclear weapons issues are interrelated and that the only effective security guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons lies in the total elimination of such weapons. Pending which, it is for the Nuclear Weapon States to provide security assurances to Non-nuclear Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in an internationally and legally-binding form."

- - - - -